

Please accept my submission to the enquiry into Foreign Aid.

My personal experience is from Zimbabwe. You will be aware of the millions that flowed in on Independence, without any visible results. As a senior magistrate in a district in Rhodesia prior to that, I noted two Scandinavian contributions. A school was built with funds from Denmark. For domestic reasons, and perhaps to ensure the school was built, the materials were shipped from Denmark. In designing drainage, the annual rainfall was ascertained and divided by twelve. However the local rain season was three or four months. The school had to beg funds to repair the damage.

The second instance was when a locals business, buying in bulk and the selling maize in small packets that small traders in remote areas could afford, had to close when maize was supplied free from Swedish funds. The result was not only locals doing the repacking were out of work, but local peasants did not plant next season, reasoning free food would come.

For Australia, I understand a building is paid for in a Caribbean nation. Was that to get Mr Rudd United Nations gratitude and possible retirement job? Also a plaque in regard to the slave trade is to erected in New York. This is unlikely to reflect the fact that the slaves were sold at the West African coast by blacks.

It is best summed by stating the folly of borrowing from foreigners to give to other foreigners.

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